

BARESA KITCHENS APPEAL: RESIDENTS' VICTORY

Legal intervention by EH staff has achieved substantial gains for residents impacted by noise and odour from a north end factory.

In our last newsletter we reported that our staff worked with Keith Neighbourhood residents to file an Environmental Bill of Rights 'Leave to Appeal' application, challenging an air permit granted by the Ministry of Environment (MOE). We did this to help residents living around Baresa Kitchens, located at 7 Hillyard Street, to see resolution of noise and odour impacts from the facility. Some homes are as close as 7.5 metres to the facility. Baresa designs and manufactures custom kitchens using a variety of odorous solvents and paints to finish the woodwork.

Not long after our Leave to Appeal application was filed, EH received a phone call from MOE lawyers asking if we and the residents would consider sitting down with the MOE and representatives from Baresa Kitchens to talk about the community's concerns. All involved agreed to meet and a session was organized down at the Robert Land/ Eva Rothwell Community Centre in August. The meeting provided an extremely useful opportunity for residents living

see Resident Victory on page 2

HUNDREDS JOIN WHITE FLAG CAMPAIGN

Hundreds of north Hamilton neighbours flew white flags this summer in response to EH's campaign focusing on emissions from Arcelor-Mittal Dofasco. Some of the resulting dirty flags will be on display at the Super Crawl and Open Streets events taking place on James Street North on Sept 25 and 26 respectively.



After four months of effort, EH staff succeeded in arranging an August meeting with the company's CEO to present community concerns and the hundreds of postcards completed by north Hamilton residents outlining their air quality concerns. Four days before it was to occur, the company suddenly cancelled it – on the basis that a single resident had filed an appeal of the company's Comprehensive Certificate of Approval which combined over 100 air emission approvals into a single certificate. If approved, this certificate will allow Arcelor-Mittal Dofasco to re-open a currently idle blast furnace – an action that would undoubtedly be an increase in pollution due to the increases in production.

CARROTS AND GARLIC OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Hamilton 350 Committee is participating in the global day of climate action on Sunday, October 10 – 10/10/10 and needs your help. The action focuses on the implications of climate change for food security. Hamilton lost 20 percent of its agricultural land between 1991 and 2006. On October 13, 2010, city council decides whether to convert an additional 2050 acres of foodland around the airport into an aerotropolis industrial zone.

On the morning of October 10 (Thanksgiving Sunday) a message will be planted on those aerotropolis lands – with garlic. You can get there on the Garlic Bus for \$3. These may not be

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MICROSOLAR INSTALLATIONS IN HAMILTON

Environment Hamilton's projects - Greening Sacred Spaces and Greening Our Local Economy (GOLE) - along with Green Venture and Blue Green Canada are working collaboratively to facilitate the ability of local homeowners, faith groups, not-for-profits and businesses to take advantage of the province's microFIT (Feed-In Tariff) program.

The microFIT initiative provides economically attractive rates for individuals interested in establishing small-scale renewable wind and solar power installations. For more information on Ontario's microFIT program, visit microfit.powerauthority.on.ca.

The first step in our collaborative initiative is a brainstorming workshop for key stakeholders scheduled for late September. This smaller event will bring together local stakeholders, along with some experienced players from outside of the Hamilton area to discuss the various models for developing, financing and implementing microFIT projects. This session will serve as the foundation for a larger workshop being planned for November of this year. Watch the EH newsletter and our website for more details on the larger November event.



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near the plant to meet company representatives and to tell them about the impacts they've been living with. It was also a great opportunity for the MOE staff engineer who prepared the air permit to actually see the facility first hand, something she admitted she had not had the opportunity to do. The meeting concluded with MOE lawyers agreeing to go away and to work on some amendments to the air permit, with the hope that residents' concerns would be adequately addressed through the changes. The meeting also led to a commitment from Baresa Kitchen representatives to host the residents and Environment Hamilton staff on a tour of the plant.

A plant tour did take place later in August, and proved to be a good opportunity for residents to see for themselves how the plant is laid out and where potential noise and odour problems might be coming from. The tour was also useful in helping to further open lines of communication between residents and the company. Company representatives have indicated that they want residents to feel comfortable contacting them with issues and concerns. Residents have said they really appreciate having the opportunity to express their concerns and to better understand the Baresa operation.

After some back and forth between Environment Hamilton staff, residents and the MOE, the air permit for Baresa Kitchens has undergone a number of significant amendments designed to better protect the neighbourhood from noise and odour impacts. Changes include the following:

Restriction of operating hours at the plant to the hours from 7am to 7pm – This is a huge win for the community. Prior to this requirement, the company was free to operate at all hours and was doing exactly this. Residents complained about noise from the facility – sometimes beyond midnight.

Requirement to take appropriate measures to minimize noise and odorous emissions from all potential sources – Permit wording has been strengthened in order to require Baresa Kitchens to be more vigilant in its efforts to eliminate noise and odour problems. This includes new, specific requirements that the company “ensure that all windows and doors on the building remain closed except for ingress and egress during the hours of 7am to 7pm.

Enhanced complaints reporting procedure – The company must now post a telephone number both on its website and on the front door of the plant, for receiving calls from the public regarding plant issues and concerns. There are also detailed requirements in the air permit outlining how the company must record and respond to public complaints.

Once amendments to the air permit were finalized by the MOE, the Environment Hamilton/Keith Neighbourhood Leave to Appeal was officially withdrawn. Both Environment Hamilton and the neighbourhood are looking forward to a quieter, less smelly neighbourhood and a better neighbour in Baresa Kitchens. Environment Hamilton will also continue to work with residents by providing them with copies of the amended air permit – to make them aware of the content of the permit and the fact that the permit is a legally enforceable document.



You can follow Environment Hamilton on Facebook and Twitter. Keep up to date on our latest activities and upcoming events by signing up as an EH follower today!



YOUTHFUL FUNDRAISER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

It all started with Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) successful fight to stop St. Mary's Cement from creating a new quarry in the north east part of Flamborough in the Natural Heritage System of Ontario's Greenbelt. In a *Spectator* article on FORCE's success - including raising \$500,000 to stop the quarry, EH's executive director Lynda Lukasik's was quoted as jokingly saying "what I would give for a war chest like that...".

Twelve year old Ben Rudolph read the article and asked his parents what Lukasik meant, Ben's parents, both active with FORCE explained to him that not all community action groups have the same resources as theirs.

Ben researched Environment Hamilton and liked how EH deals with global issues by helping individuals and communities locally. From there, Ben decided that he was going to make Hamilton Fruit Tree Project his Mitzvah project as part of his Bar Mitzvah. Alongside his classmates, who each chose their own Mitzvah projects, he set out to raise funds.

Hosting a pool party and at his actual Mitzvah, he encouraged family and friends to donate funds – and what a response! Friends came with donations and others gave through Small Change Fund.

Ben successfully raised over \$1,600 for our Fruit Tree project. EH would like to thank Ben and his family for all their work and dedication. We wish Ben all the best as he enters his final year of middle school at Hillfield Strathallan College and starts his duties as an elected "house captain" for the first time – we are sure that he will shine.

Fruit Tree has been having a great season with already more fruit than in 2009 - over 5,500 lbs - and we are not done yet for 2010. We will be at Straight from the Garden event at Dundurn Castle on Sunday September 26th from 12-4pm, harvesting apples from their trees and will continue to harvest in backyards until Mother Nature says stop.



Ben Rudolph with Fruit Tree coordinator Juby Lee.

CLIMATE CHANGE continued from page 1

public lands and there may be trespassing, so this is for peaceful radicals! **Call EH at (905) 549-0900 to reserve a place on the Garlic Bus.**

Garlic is one symbolic crop for the campaign. Not only is it planted in the fall, but nearly all the garlic now available in Hamilton is imported from China. By planting local garlic on lands designated for aerotropolis development, we are sending a strong message to city hall: **Productive agricultural land should be used to grow food, not warehouses!**

Without a protected and supported local food system, Hamiltonians will be vulnerable to global price fluctuations and world food shortages. It's about our fundamental right to food security. It's about our community's need for food sovereignty. And it's about climate change. **Global climatic disasters this summer in Pakistan, Russia, Saskatchewan, Australia and elsewhere pushed wheat prices up 70 percent!** We need to guarantee access to locally-grown food so that we can also reduce the number of miles our food travels from farm to fork—thereby reducing the contributions our food makes to greenhouse gases.

The Hamilton 350 Committee is also using "giant carrots" to alert the public about our concerns. Unlike garlic, there are still lots of locally-grown carrots available. We're distributing the attached carrot flyer – and need your help to do this before October 10! Please respond to this email if you can help. Please forward the flyer to all your friends and connections!

More information is available at www.hamilton350.com. Hamilton's latest 350 campaign is part of the global [10/10/10 movement](http://10/10/10), organized by 350.org and supported by EH.



GROWING THE GREENBELT IN HAMILTON

The Greenbelt is celebrating its fifth birthday this year and Spring Creek in Dundas could soon join other river valleys across Ontario as they come under Greenbelt protection. Ontario's Greenbelt currently covers more than 728,000 hectares (1.8 million acres) and includes agricultural land, green space, hundreds of rural towns and villages – as well as over 7000 farms.



Environment Hamilton is a member of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance - a group of more than 80 environmental organizations who have been working with a number of municipalities (such as Toronto, Oakville, Mississauga and Guelph) to expand this protected land base.

The focus for this special birthday year is on public lands and river corridors as a way to connect urban residents with their water sources as well as their farming communities

Spring Creek in Dundas was chosen because it borders existing Greenbelt land and because there was optimism Dundas residents would embrace the proposal. The creek runs near a section of the Dundas rail trail and is owned primarily by the Hamilton Conservation Authority with a small portion in city hands. The valley land is already designated environmentally sensitive but bringing it under the Greenbelt will add a “Teflon coating” of protection against any proposal for future development.

EH staff member, Julia Kollek, is making presentations to city committees with the goal for support to move forward on this land-protecting initiative. The board of the Hamilton Conservation Authority recently directed its staff to continue discussions with the city “regarding the Greenbelt expansion request by Environment Hamilton in the Dundas Valley”.

WHO'S VOLUNTEERING AT EH

Environment Hamilton is lucky to have some great volunteers helping us and we thought you might like to know who they are. This month meet Daniel Jung, a student in the Environmental Technician Program at Mohawk College.



How I heard about EH: It was through word-of-mouth. A friend brought me to the Good Neighbour Campaign's White Flag-making event earlier this year and I thought what Environment Hamilton was doing was so great, that I left my contact information and kept coming back!

Other EH Projects & Events I've been involved in: I helped run the EH booth (shared with Dundas in Transition & Green Venture) at the Dundas Cactus Festival: picked fruit with the Fruit Tree Project: took part in the Dundas Eco-Motion project.

Why I like Volunteering with EH: Volunteering gives you a different kind of feeling than working – you put more into it. I like Environment Hamilton because they're really aiming to better the community and it's special volunteering for a non-profit: I'm happy to make a difference.

I feel it's always important to get involved in the community. I could spend my time at home or going to the movies, but by volunteering I get to meet new people and learn about what's going on in the environment in our city.

I really enjoy volunteering with EH because of the holistic approach they take: they don't focus on one aspect of the environment. When people think of the environment they think of one thing, but the projects at EH capture different areas like food, air pollution and transportation.

It's good to encourage public participation and raise awareness because if you don't get people to care, nothing will change – and politicians won't take notice.

**LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH US? CONTACT JULIA AT
VOLUNTEER@ENVIRONMENTHAMILTON.ORG OR CALL 905-549-0900**

MOVING TO FAIR TRADE TOWN STATUS

In our last issue, we introduced the concept of Fair Trade and how closely it aligns with the goal of buying local. Over the course of the summer, Environment Hamilton has been engaged in an effort to see our city become officially certified as a Fair Trade Town. Thanks to our summer intern Adam De Sousa, our efforts are well on the way.

Over the past few months Adam has worked diligently on EH's behalf to connect with TransFair Canada, the entity that certifies Fair Trade communities in our country. He also gathered valuable information and advice from individuals involved in the recent certification of the City of Vancouver as a Fair Trade city. Through this work, he has been able to quickly manoeuvre us through the certification process.

Hamilton is now listed on the TransFair Canada website as a 'Fair Trade Town in Progress'. And he has determined that a number of the 6 required goals of certification have already been met, or are well on the way to being met. The 6 goals we must meet to achieve Fair Trade Town certification include:

1. **SUPPORT FROM CITY COUNCIL:**

We must get City Council to pass a resolution in support of Fair Trade and our local campaign, including:

- a) *A commitment to purchase only Fair Trade certified tea, coffee and sugar, and other Fair Trade certified products where possible, for all meetings and in offices and cafeterias.*
- b) *A commitment to assign Fair Trade Town responsibilities to a member of staff or committee to ensure continued commitment to its Fair Trade status.*

This is probably the most challenging of all of the goals we must reach. The good news, however, is that there is interest in the mayor's office and through Councillor McHattie, to seriously pursue certification. We have held several meetings to explore the feasibility of getting the city to commit to the goals set out above.

2. **FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN STORES AND RESTAURANTS:**

A community the size of Hamilton needs to demonstrate that it has 50 retail outlets offering 2 or more Fair Trade Certified items and 20 restaurants/cafes offering 2 or more Fair Trade Certified items.

We're there! With the help of staff from 10,000 Villages – a store on Locke Street that carries only fairly traded goods - we have our lists of retailers and restaurants ready to go. Watch the EH website as we plan to take our list and create an on-line, publicly accessible Fair Trade directory for Hamilton!

3. **SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:**

There must be workplaces, faith groups, and schools in the community that use and promote Fair Trade Certified products.

We've got these players too. Working to do outreach and recruit additional stakeholders in the community who are committed to Fair Trade has been a smooth process. The support and commitment is already out there – it's simply a matter of getting people organized around the goal of formal certification of the city.

4. **PUBLIC SUPPORT: MEDIA AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

There must be media coverage of the campaign and public events organized to raise awareness about Fair Trade and the local campaign.

These pieces will fall into place as we take the final steps toward certification of the city.

5. **STEERING COMMITTEE IS CONVENED:**

A local Fair Trade committee is convened that includes a wide representation of the community. The group develops and commits to achieve 2 additional targets per year, commits to submit annual progress assessments to TransFair Canada, and organizes events for National Fair Trade Week in May of each year.



Join Us!



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Memberships
\$25 per year
\$15/unwaged
& student

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DON'T MISS THESE SEPTEMBER EVENTS

On Wednesday, September 22, Greening Sacred Spaces/Environment Hamilton and Hughson St. Baptist Church present:

FOOD AND FAITH

Food as a moral movement. *Growing veggies on faith home grounds* Grace Lutheran's straw bale project, Highland Baptist Community Garden, Westdale United etc. ***Growing food in community*** -Hill St. Park community garden (faith group collaborative). Eating locally (Environment Hamilton). ***Gardens for newcomers*** (Hughson St Baptist church). ***Good Food Box.*** Fruit tree picking project. ***Canning and preserving,*** (Environment Hamilton). Sacred Heart's ***farmer's market*** and more! Come out and learn from community leaders about what area faith communities are doing to help create food security for all people. Visit booths and displays, enjoy light refreshments. All welcome!

Hughson St Baptist Church, 383 Hughson Street N. Hamilton 7pm-9pm.

Contact Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko for more info to register bekoko@faith-commongood.net or 905 549 0900.



Open Streets in June was a big success.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
– 10AM TO 3PM –
RAIN OR SHINE!

Open Streets Hamilton is back on James Street North at the end of this month. If you missed the first event in June, you don't want to miss this one. Join walkers, rollers, and riders for this wonderful opportunity to experience James Street North from York Boulevard to Burlington Street as you never have before – car free! Environment Hamilton is a sponsoring organization in Open Streets Hamilton. Look for our booth on September 26th and be sure to stop by and join us for a game of green twister.

Environment Hamilton will be at SuperCrawl on **Saturday, September 25th** - the day before Open Streets. Supercrawl runs from 1pm – 11pm. Visit www.supercrawl.ca to learn more about this free afternoon and evening of art and music along James Street North.



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We have already recruited representatives from local coops, faith groups, and retail outlets to serve on the steering committee. Environment Hamilton will be there too!

6. **ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PROMOTED:**

Initiatives are taken within the community to promote other forms of sustainable consumption and ethical purchasing (e.g. promotion of sweat-shop free, or locally produced).

These are elements that will emerge out of the work of the steering committee, once it is formally established. The goals outlined above dovetail nicely with current initiatives within Environment Hamilton that are focused on 'locally produced'.

Watch our website and future newsletters for updates on our progress towards full certification. If you are interested in getting involved in this effort in any way, please give Lynda a call at the EH office at (905) 549-0900. For more information on the certification process involved in recognizing a community as a Fair Trade City, visit www.transfair.ca. When you get there, note that Hamilton is now listed as a 'Fair Trade Town in Progress'. If we succeed, we will be the largest municipality in Ontario to have achieved this designation!



THE TRANSITION INITIATIVE

This is part 3 of a three part series about dealing with the unsustainability of human settlements. The series is the work of former EH board member Jack Santa-Barbara. Previous parts looked at the unsustainability of modern human settlements, and the Transition Initiative.

An alternative approach is to turn to a historically more sustainable form of human settlement – the village.

The Atamai Village project (www.atamai.co.nz) is one example of doing just that. The basic idea is to develop a sustainable village that can serve as a model settlement of self reliance. The idea is to design and construct a small village where people can live well sustainably by harvesting, and where possible, enhancing, the energy flows from the land itself. Meeting essential human needs requires water, energy, food, shelter, employment, and social supports.

Setting a goal of ensuring basic needs might appear primitive but we feel that providing for these needs sustainably is something our current society is not doing; we also believe it will become increasingly difficult to ensure these basic needs are met as the unsustainable practices of our current society continue. Climate change and energy descent, for example, are two of the major challenges specifically addressed in the design of the village. We prefer to be prepared as best we can, and if possible, provide useful information and examples for others.

The 100 ha project site is currently not highly productive land, having been previously used for grazing and plantation forestry. The project design involves enhancing the productivity of the land with the application of permaculture principles and sustainable forestry.

What are the features of Atamai Village that we hope will make it sustainable? First of all, a long term view – the intent is to design and build the physical infrastructure not only with the smallest footprint possible, but also in a way to minimize maintenance and increase durability.

All homes, for example, will be constructed largely of local resources (straw bale, compressed brick from local materials, etc). All homes will have a passive solar orientation and design to minimize the need for heating and cooling resources. Buildings will be designed to last for centuries rather than decades. Domestic water will be supplied from rooftop collection. Water use will be minimized with the use of composting toilets, and grey water will be used in orchard areas. The land also contains a stream and potential well sites. Several ponds have been constructed for irrigation and recreational purposes, and more are planned.

Aspects of traditional village designs are being incorporated, based on the fact that traditional villages have proven to be the most sustainable forms of human settlements in the widest range of settings for the longest periods of human history. The plan is to provide employment within the village as well as dwellings, minimizing the need for commuting, and making the village as self reliant as possible.

Atamai also plans to be car free, and carbon neutral. Other details of the experiment are available on the website. Suggestions, critiques and inquires are welcomed.

JOIN OR RENEW ON-LINE!

You can now join Environment Hamilton or renew your membership on-line. Simply click on the 'Become a Member' link from our homepage, fill out the on-line application form, and continue on to secure payment of your membership fee via Paypal or with a credit card.

For this and your best source for news about the environment in our city visit us at www.environmenthamilton.org.



Join Us!



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Memberships
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CHALLENGE TO A STEEL GIANT



The Arcelor-Mittal Dofasco meltshop has been a source of pollutants

We reported in the July newsletter about ArcelorMittal-Dofasco's request to the Ontario Ministry of Environment for an 'alternative standard' – a permit that would provide the company with more time to meet tough new provincial air quality standards for several problem air contaminants being discharged from the Hamilton facility. That permit was granted in late July, giving the company 5 more years to meet new total suspended particulate (TSP) standards that came into force in 2010, 2 more years to meet total reduced sulphur (TRS) standards that come into force in 2013, and that require the company to begin to work towards meeting proposed standards for cancer-causing benzene and benzo(a)pyrene.

Meanwhile, on August 3rd, a decision was posted to the provincial Environmental Bill of Rights registry, approving the company's application for a comprehensive certificate of approval for air emissions from the plant. Comprehensive permits include all sources of emissions from a facility. That air permit also amounts to an approval for an increase in production at the facility, by approving the company's plans to restart its #3 blast furnace, which has been dormant since 2005. Restart of the blast furnace will enable AM-Dofasco to ramp up the production of slab steel at the plant by 40%.

But the ramp-up in production, while good for business, comes at a cost to the environment. This is because AM-Dofasco plans to continue to operate another blast furnace - #4 blast furnace – at the same time that it starts the #3 blast furnace. Running both furnaces is key to increasing production at the plant, but both furnaces are in need of pollution control upgrades.

The company has indicated that it is unwilling to shut down blast furnace #4 prior to 2018 – the year that it has plans to shutdown and upgrade the plant. Meanwhile, blast furnace #3 will be upgraded prior to restart. But the overall impact of this move is an increase in TRS. This increase comes despite the MOE and company suggesting to the public that there will be a 20% decrease in TRS over the next 5 years – a reduction that is based on TRS levels estimated when the plant shifts to increased production. But when one considers the reductions in TRS based on current emission levels, emissions will actually increase by ~1.3% over the next 5 years! It is unclear what impact production increases will have as far as reductions in current levels of emissions of the other 3 contaminants of concern.

The impact of increased production at the plant has generated concern in adjacent neighbourhoods. McAnulty neighbourhood resident Lorna Moreau decided to take action. Working with EH staff with experience in provincial environmental rights, Lorna submitted a leave to appeal application under the provincial *Environmental Bill of Rights* challenging the MOE's decision to grant AM-Dofasco its comprehensive air permit. Moreau's appeal asserts that no reasonable person would have granted the permit given that it allows the company to increase production and, in turn, increase the emissions of contaminants for which the company already had to secure an alternative standard because it was unable to meet protective air standards within the legally required timeframe. Moreau's appeal was filed on August 17th.

Meanwhile, as part of our Good Neighbour Campaign, Environment Hamilton had been working since May of this year to set up a meeting with AM-Dofasco CEO Juergen Schachler. After a great deal of persistence on EH's part, the company had agreed to meet with neighbours from the communities surrounding their plant on August 23rd. However, as soon as the company heard that an appeal had been launched by a resident, they took the unfortunate step of cancelling the meeting with the neighbourhood, citing the appeal as the reason for doing this. We were saddened by this decision, particularly since the appeal was not an initiative of the Good Neighbour Campaign, which works with community members to map out actions aimed at raising industry awareness about impacts on adjacent neighbourhoods and working to bring industry and community members together to talk about impacts and concerns.

We will continue to provide updates on the AM-Dofasco appeal and other efforts to see the industrial facilities in our community reduce and ideally eliminate their negative impacts on our local environment.

